

Appl. No. 09/715,308  
Amdt. Dated January 26, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2003

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 12-16, 20-30, 32 and 33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 12-16, 18, 30 and 33 stand rejected. Claims 20-29 are allowed. Claim 32 is objected to. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and are believed to render all pending claims at issue patentably distinct over the cited references.

#### I. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-8, 11-16, 18, 30 and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious in view of *Barnett* taken with *Nakhla*. This rejection is improper because neither of the references cited, alone or in combination, discloses all of the limitations of these claims.

The proposed *Barnett/Nakhla* combination fails to disclose:

- a. entering at least one alphanumeric character corresponding to a first text identifier into the text entry device and displaying the text entered on a flight plan entry field on the display;
- b. comparing the entered character to data stored in each data source and identifying and automatically completing on the monitor display a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan;

as in Claim 1 (emphasis added) and similarly in claims 16, 30 and 33. In the present invention, upon the entering of at least one character of a text identifier, a comparison is made to find the likely text identifier corresponding to the character. Neither of the references cited has such a comparison step, having only comparisons made for validity of the entire identifier. Presenting likely text identifier matches based on entry of a character of the text identifier is important in the instant invention because the comparison and automatic completion of the identifier can reduce the number of keystrokes required by the crewmember entering data, and further allows more "heads up" time for the crewmember to proceed with other tasks.

The Examiner continues to assert that *Barnett* discloses matching a character with a text identifier at column 2, lines 36-45. However, that reference merely states that "The master control processor controls the contents of the memory with respect to the entered alphanumeric data and the predetermined codes, thereby to energize the signal processor in a desired mode of operation upon coincidence of the encoded entry and one of the stored codes." (Emphasis

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added). Thus the entirety of the code is checked for validity, and *Barnett* does not disclose completing the entered code based on a partial match. Indeed, if only part of the text identifier is entered in *Barnett* the result would most likely be an error message due to failure to match the code. (See *Barnett*, column 5, lines 27-33: "If the code at location 218 is invalid, the processor reverts to location 224 and writes an error code to LCD display 136. In the event of an error in entry, or an invalid entry, activation of the transponder is denied, the program branches back to the input routine as previously described, and the LCD screen is blanked for reentry of a new sequence of alphanumeric characters.") Each of the claims 11-8, 11-16, 18, 30 and 33 specifically recites this feature and each of these claims is believed to now be in condition for allowance.

The above argument was made in the last response to an office action. In that response, the argument that the cited part of *Barnett* does not disclose, teach or suggest matching one or more characters with a likely text identifier was made and the passage offered by the Examiner as disclosing that limitation was quoted and it was explained how it only discloses matching an entire code entry with a stored code. The response by the Examiner to the Applicant's argument was simply to restate that column 2, lines 36-45 of *Barnett* discloses such a limitation. The Examiner failed to address the specific arguments made by the Applicant as to why that section did not disclose what the Examiner said it did. This incomplete response the Applicant an opportunity to place the claims into better condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the last office action be removed and a new office action issued addressing the above arguments be issued.

Not only does *Barnett* fail to disclose what the Examiner argues it discloses, the *Nakhla* reference also fails to disclose what the Examiner alleges it discloses. The Examiner argues that while *Barnett* fails to disclose identifying a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan, *Nakhla* discloses an alternative destination predictor for aircrafts with identifying a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan disclosed at column 5, lines 16-24 and column 6, lines 57-63. A close reading of these sections shows that what is disclosed in *Nakhla* is not what is claimed in the present invention. For example, column 5, lines 16-24 merely discloses that a pilot can enter, in its entirety, the call letters of various aircraft landing positions known to the pilot. This section does not discuss using characters entered to identify a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft. Therefore, nothing in the section referenced by the Examiner discloses, teaches or

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suggests "comparing the entered character to data stored in each data source and identifying and automatically completing on the monitor display a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan" as disclosed in claim 1 and similarly in claims 16, 30 and 33.

Additionally, the Examiner argues that Column 6, lines 57-63 discloses "identifying a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan". what the Examiner argues it discloses. However, column 6, lines 57-63 of *Nakhla* discloses that the geographically closest landing areas to the aircraft are displayed not upon the matching of entered characters to a text identifier but instead are displayed when a switch labeled nearest airport is flipped. This is clearly not the same as "comparing the entered character to data stored in each data source and identifying and automatically completing on the monitor display a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan", as disclosed in claim 1 and similarly in independent claims 16, 30 and 33.

Additionally, *Nakhla* fails to show, and the Examiner fails to address, the fact that claim 1, in the present invention, discloses "identifying and automatically completing on the monitor display a likely text identifier that is geographically closest to the aircraft's flight plan" (similar limitations can be found in claims 16, 30 and 33). Neither *Nakhla* nor *Barnett*, alone or in combination discloses "automatically completing ... likely text identifier".

For at least these reasons, claims 1, 16, 30 and 33 and their dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Considering claim 30, in the previous office action the Examiner indicated claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of all intervening claims. This was done in the last response by the amending of claim 30 to include the limitations of claim 31. However, in this response the Examiner continues to reject claim 30 using the exact same argument as before and not addressing the amendments made to claim 30. Applicant argues that since the Examiner indicated before that the prior art did not disclose "removing active runway information from the runway list and sorting and listing all remaining runways by proximity to the active runway heading" as in claim 30, as amended in the last office action, the rejection of claim 30 should be withdrawn.

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**II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Claims 20-29 have been allowed by the examiner and this is again noted with appreciation. Claim 32 is objected to but the allowability of claim 30 renders that point moot.

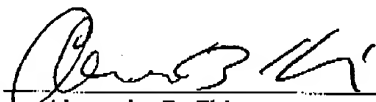
**III. CONCLUSION**

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or has not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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